Programme of
Christmas Festival
Sunday & Infant Schools
Fest. of H. Innocents 1863

In Church — No 2

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

OF THE

SUNDAY AND INFANT SCHOOLS

OF

CHRIST CHURCH,

FIFTH AVENUE, NEW-YORK,

Evening of the Festival of the Holy Innocents, Dec. 28th, 1863.

I.—CHRISTMAS CAROL.

By the Sunday School.

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth,
Ye who say Creation's story,
Now proclaim MESSIAH'S birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new born King.

Shepherd's in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, &c.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar:
Seek the great Desire of nations.
Ye have seen His natal star—
Come and worship, &c.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple, shall appear—
Come and worship, &c.

Sinners, wrung with true repentance,
Doomed for guilt to endless pains;
Justice now revokes the sentence,
Mercy calls you, break your chains.
Come and worship, &c."

II. OPENING DEVOTIONS.

III. CHRISTMAS CAROL—By the Sunday School.

Hark! what mean those holy voices,
Sweetly sounding through the skies?
Lo! the Angelic host rejoices:
Heavenly hallelujahs rise.
Cherubs tell the wondrous story;
Joyous seraphim reply,
"Glory in the highest, glory!
Glory be to God most High!"

Peace on earth, good will from heaven,
Reaching far as man is found;
Souls redeem'd, and sins forgiven!
Loud our grateful harps shall sound.
"Christ is born, the great Anointed;
Heaven and earth his praises sing!
Oh, receive whom God appointed
For your Prophet, Priest, and King."

IV. LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT.

V. "STORY OF CHRISTMAS,"—By the Sunday School.

While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shown around.
"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind,
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind."

"To you, in David's town, this day,
Is born of David's line,
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:
The heavenly babe you there shall find,
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapt in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of Angels, praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:
"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth, from heaven to men,
Begin and never cease."

VI. REMARKS.

VII. CAROLLING BY THE INFANT SCHOOL.

"The Christmas Tree."

Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Ever green
Have its branches been,
It is king of all the woodland scene:
For CHRIST, our King, is born to-day,
His reign shall never pass away.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!

Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Once the pride
Of the mountain side,
Now cut down to grace our Christmas-tide:
For CHRIST from heaven to earth came down,
To gain, through Death, a nobler crown.
Hosanna, &c.

Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Every bough
Bears a burden now,
They are gifts of love for us, we trow:
For CHRIST is born, His love to show,
And give good gifts to men below.
Hosanna, &c.

Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Gather around the Christmas Tree!
Tapers bright
In the branches light,
Till our eyes all shine at the goodly sight,
For CHRIST, our LIGHT, is born to-day,
His glory ne'er shall fade away.
Hosanna, &c.

Distribution of the Christmas Gifts.

Farewell to thee, O Christmas Tree!
Farewell to thee, O Christmas Tree!
Thy part is done,
And thy gifts are gone,
And thy lights are dying one by one:
For earthly pleasures die to-day,
But heavenly joys shall last alway.
Hosanna, &c.

Farewell to thee, O Christmas Tree !
Farewell to thee, O Christmas Tree !
Twelve months o'er,
We shall meet once more,
Merry welcome singing, as of yore :
For CHRIST now reigns, our SAVIOUR dear,
And gives us Christmas every year !
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest !

VIII. OFFERING FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

IX. CLOSING CAROL—By the Sunday School.

The Savior of the sinful world
Was born to-day ;
In Bethlehem God's only son,
An infant lay.
The angel choirs sang songs of praise,
To usher in this Day of days.

The Virgin Mary swathed her boy
With tender care,
And placed him in the manger low,
To slumber there,
While angel choirs sang songs of praise
To usher in this Day of days.

The midnight watchers with their flocks
Great glory saw,
And trembling at the wondrous scene,
Bowed down with awe,
While angel choirs sang songs of praise,
To usher in this Day of days.

The shepherds quickly went their way,
And found the child ;
What wonder did their story cause
The mother mild,
As th' angels rose to heaven with praise
To celebrate this Day of days.

Since then long years have rolled away,
And round the earth,
Has oft been sung by myriad tongues
This glorious birth.
Come, Christian children, swell the praise
That ushers in this Day of days !

X. APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION—By the Rector.